Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for rendering a number in a spreadsheet program module, comprising the steps of:

determining the value of the number;

reading a worldwide number format of the number wherein the worldwide format includes a locale specifier of the number and a base format of the number; and

using the base format and the locale specifier to render the number therein applying the worldwide number format to the number;

wherein the locale specifier comprises:

a locale identification used to categorize different parts of the world and determine what language in which to render the number independent of regional settings associated with the spreadsheet program module;

a number shape including a number shape value that indicates what shape in which to render the number; and

a calendar type including a calendar type value that indicates which calendar should be used to calculate a date from the value of the number.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]] wherein the ~~worldwide number format further comprises~~ a number shape value indicates that the number is to be rendered as written out text ~~including a number shape value that indicates what shape in which to render the number~~.

4.   (Canceled)

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5.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for entering a number into a cell in an electronic spreadsheet of a spreadsheet application program module, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a category indication for the number <u>from a selection via a Category dropdown menu of a Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application program module</u>;

receiving a locale identifier <u>only</u> for the number <u>from a selection via a Locale dropdown menu of the Format Cells dialog within the spreadsheet application program module</u>;

cross-referencing the category indication and the locale identifier <u>independent of regional format settings</u> to determine a plurality of sample number formats with a plurality of underlying number formats;

displaying the plurality of sample number formats;

receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of sample number formats; and

storing the underlying number format of the selected sample number format in association with a value for the cell, wherein the underlying number format of the selected sample number format and the value for the cell comprise the number.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of displaying the plurality of sample number formats comprises displaying the plurality of sample number formats in a Type menu of <u>the</u> [[a]] Format Cells dialog.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of sample number formats comprises receiving an indication from the Type menu of the Format Cells dialog.

10.   (Original)   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5.

11.   (Currently amended) A Format Cells dialog box for choosing the number format of a number in an electronic spreadsheet application program module, the dialog box comprising:

a Category menu comprising a plurality of number categories to select for the number;

a Locale menu comprising a plurality of locales to select as the locale identification for the number independent of at least one of operating system regional settings and a language version of the electronic spreadsheet application program module; and

a Type menu comprising a plurality of sample display formats to select to display the number.

12.   (Original)   The Format Cells dialog box of claim 11 wherein the plurality of sample display formats is generated in response to a selection of one of the plurality of number categories and a selection of one of the plurality of locales.

13.   (Original)   The Format Cells dialog box of claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of sample display formats has a corresponding underlying number format.

14.   (Currently amended) The Format Cells dialog box of claim 13 wherein a selection of one of the plurality of sample display formats causes the corresponding underlying number format of the selected sample display format to be applied to the number independent of at least one of the regional settings and the language version of the electronic spreadsheet application program module.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the worldwide number format is stored in association with the value of the number.

16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the category indication and the locale identifier determine a calendar type of the number independent of the regional format settings.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the category indication and the locale identifier determine a number shape of the number independent of the regional format settings.

18. (Previously presented) The Format Cells dialog box of claim 13, wherein the underlying number format includes at least one of a calendar type of the number and a number shape of the number.

19. (Previously presented) The Format Cells dialog box of claim 18, wherein the number shape is determined based on the selection of one of the plurality of number categories and the selection of one of the plurality of locales.

20. (Previously presented) The Format Cells dialog box of claim 18, wherein the calendar type is determined based on the selection of one of the plurality of number categories and the selection of one of the plurality of locales.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the number shape refers to one of ASCII numbers, Arabic numbers, Chinese numbers, Korean numbers, and Japanese numbers.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the number shape comprises a hex digit.

23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the number shape refers to at least one of a manner of writing numbers and a digit shape in which to render the number.